

The Herndon Planning Commission and Town staff want to thank all those who came to this meeting and shared their thoughts and ideas for the Herndon 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

HERNDON 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

MEETING SUMMARY: Public meeting on transportation and environmental issues was held on June 25, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Herndon Municipal Center Council Chambers, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia.

Transportation Comments

- There should be a pedestrian element in the plan that promotes a walkable Town, where many destinations can be reached by a ten minute walk using sidewalks or pathways.
- To help traffic flow on the Herndon Parkway, there needs to be dedicated right turn lanes at the following locations:
 - Northbound Van Buren Street turning toward eastbound Herndon Parkway
 - Southbound Dranesville Road turning toward westbound Herndon Parkway
- According to the CORSIM model and simulation developed for the 2003 Downtown Traffic Study, both north and south bound Van Buren Street at Elden Street will be the most problematic area in the Downtown at build-out.
- The Automatic Traffic Signal system needs to be refined or modified to favor the side streets rather than Elden Street during off-peak hours.
- Traffic calming devices should be considered in problem residential areas.
- Creating on-street parking for a traffic calming solution is a bad idea and such policies should be eliminated.
- To help direct traffic towards the Herndon Parkway, the following measures should be implemented:
 - Provide traffic calming on local streets
 - Provide dedicated right-turn lanes on arterial streets
 - Prohibit access on certain streets during rush hour (Example- Signs that state “No right turns between 4 pm – 7 pm”)
 - Provide signage on Elden Street and others streets that alerts drivers to major roadways such as the Herndon Parkway, Fairfax County Parkway and Route 28 in order to divert traffic from local roads.

- The portion of Elden Street that crosses Sugarland Run needs to be widened (culverts need to be expanded).
- How can we make Downtown Herndon a destination and limit commuter traffic in the Downtown? These goals seem to conflict with each other. Possible solutions include serving the residents and businesses first and then addressing the commuters' needs, that is the needs of through traffic.

Regional Traffic Issues Affecting Herndon – How can the Town work with the region to reduce commuter traffic (such as vehicles from Loudoun) using local Herndon roads? Suggestions discussed are:

- Work on policies that divert commuter traffic through the Town
- Reduce or eliminate the Dulles Toll Road/Route 28 toll booth bottleneck through additional lanes and/or more toll booths
- Improve access to Route 28 from Frying Pan Road, Sunrise Valley Drive and Centreville Road
- Reduce traffic by providing more bike paths
- Reduce emissions by promoting and using alternate fuel vehicles
- Improve pedestrian linkages to activity nodes –
 - Connect sidewalks with crosswalks
 - Provide safe crossings at dangerous intersections
 - Provide sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Bus Issues/Concerns

- Bus Stops/Routes – Work with Fairfax County to ensure that all bus stops have sufficient pedestrian accessibility.
- Advocate to Fairfax County that clean fuel buses should be used in Herndon.
- Reexamine existing bus stops and routes to ensure that they meet the needs of riders when rail becomes available. The bus routes should serve the riders using rail and create routes that will assist them in reaching their destination points, especially the needs of riders that will enter and exit the Herndon Parkway access to the Herndon/Monroe rail station and the CIT buildings near the CIT rail station.
- Bus stops and shelters need to be provided in all the neighborhoods. Such measures may reduce the number of bus stops on Elden Street that currently slow down traffic.
- The worst bus stops that hold up traffic on Elden Street should be identified so bus turnouts can be considered for those locations.

- Trolley and Bus Service – Do we need both?
- As rail becomes operational, bus service should become more localized and serve the neighborhoods.

Environmental Issues

- Increase curbside recycling in Herndon:
 - Increase pick-up twice a week
 - Allow cardboard, white paper and mixed-paper
 - Follow what Fairfax County is doing.
- Hold more household hazardous waste recycling days or establish a permanent drop-off site in Town. With computers and florescent bulbs requiring proper disposal, there need to be more opportunities for residents to dispose of these materials properly.
- There should be educational campaign incentives for environmental issues.
- The Town should be on the forefront of sound environmental protection in order to set high standards for itself and be a model for other municipalities to emulate.
- There should be policies on tree canopies, such as a 20% increase in the canopy over time.
- Trees should be recognized as a valuable asset to environmental protection as they remove heavy metals, utilize carbon dioxide and release oxygen.
- Maximize tree cover along all waterways within the Herndon Centennial Golf Course.
- Stormwater management policies and regulations need to be enforced. Currently, there are not enough resources to ensure that all stormwater facilities in the Town (both public and private) are being properly maintained.
- Protect and use native trees and reduce the use of non-native species. Herndon should have a tree farm where valuable native species can be relocated prior to property redevelopment.
- There should be development incentives for saving trees, using LEED standards, using green building materials, installing green roofs. Possible incentives include

density bonuses, setback reductions and fulfilling the zoning requirements for green space.

- The Town should take a leadership role in environmental policies and clearly identify its goals. Examples of such goals include establishing a tree farm, recycling a higher percentage of the waste stream than mandated by the state, supporting the use of green building materials, creating and enforcing policies that limit soil compaction, creating incentives for using better building insulation, reducing and reusing building materials, creating an interpretive garden, reducing or eliminating the use of heavy metals or chemicals in Town.
- Once these goals have been established, audits should be performed regularly to determine if these goals are being achieved.
- There should be a tracking system and enforcement program of environmental complaints such as storm drainage issues, soil erosion and illegal dumping in storm drains.
- There should be meaningful open space policies that encourage usable green spaces such as pocket parks throughout Town.
- The pro-rata share program needs to be revamped and implemented.
- There need to be more policies on creating and implementing a safe and convenient bike and pedestrian network throughout Town. Examples include construction of trails and sidewalks and providing bike facilities at residential and commercial destination points.
- To reduce the conflicts between automobile and bicycles, grade separated crossings for trails need to be considered at major intersections. Such crossings are desired at Elden Street, Crestview and Van Buren Street.
- Town should tap Fairfax County and its resources to assist with implementing these environmental goals.